



UNAPPROVED
Minutes of the
Parks and Recreation Commission Meeting

November 17, 2020
Meeting Held Virtually

In Attendance:

Phil Kearns, Chair
Kim Hulber
Barbara Dobbin, Vice Chair
Evie Bottali, Secretary
David Shofi
Pete Nichols

Dennis DiPinto, Director
Kathy Fassman, Marketing
Eileen Cipolla, Accountant

Jane Byrnes, Secty.

These minutes are a general summary of the meeting and are not intended to be a verbatim transcription.

Meeting called to order by Chair at 6:40 p.m.

Recognition and introduction of Guests:

The Chair introduced and welcomed the following guests:

Maya Pereyra – Eagle Scout Project – Sturges Park
Kim Becker – Pickleball Player
Maria Klutey – Pickleball Player
Trish Farren – Pickleball Player
Doug Southworth – Pickleball Player

Approval of Agenda

G. Carey moved and B. Dobbin seconded the motion to move Old Business and New Business up on the agenda. The motion carried 7-0.

Mr. Kearns introduced Maya Pereyra. Ms. Pereyra gave a presentation on her completed Eagle Scout project at Sturges Park. Ms. Pereyra built and installed new campsite benches at two campsite in Sturges Park. The Commission thanked her for the impressive job she did with this project. Mr. Nicholas mentioned that he had been at Sturges and saw the benches and they were well built. The Commission thanked Maya for her presentation.

G. Carey moved to accept Maya Pereyra's Eagle Scout replacement bench project at Sturges Park. D. Shofi seconded. The motion carried 7-0.



The Chair introduced Kim Becker, pickleball player. Ms. Becker gave a presentation regarding Pickleball in Ridgefield. Some of the items covered included:

- Review of current outdoor courts, including RHS, ERMS and Governor Park
- Pros and Cons of current outdoor courts
- Pros and Cons of newly proposed outdoor courts
- Recommendations for proposed lines to be painted on outdoor tennis courts with alternative layouts
- Cost comparisons for lines on tennis courts and proposed new outdoor courts
- Their view on best options for outdoor lines on tennis courts

The Commission had some questions regarding number of residents and non-residents, age of players, type of surfaces, sharing of courts, lining restrictions, outdoor play times, and registration possibilities.

Mr. Kearns thanked the group for their presentation and stated that the Commission and Department are very supportive of the pickleball program.

It was suggested that the Commissioners to look at the sites for a better understanding of the proposal.

Approval of Minutes

D. Shofi moved and K. Hulber seconded the motion to approve the P&R Commission meeting minutes from October 20, 2020 meeting. Motion carried 7-0.

Business Items/Reports

Chairperson – Phil Kearns

Covered under budget and policy.

Director's Report – Dennis DiPinto

Building/Grounds

- Working on final stages of pavilion
- Working on additional sites for pickleball this spring
- Toured facilities with Bob for ten year plan
- Working with staff on handicap walkway
- Met with Jake on Ballard Park fencing

Financial

- Working with Eileen on operating/capital budget
- Attended Revenue Meeting

Community:

- Working with Commission on pickleball challenges
- Working with BOE Tiger Hollow on turf project
- Working on getting Friends members



Staffing-Programs:

Working with sub-committee on strategic plan

Working on staff training for “department culture” and meeting with Jamie and staff on Thursday

Met with software representatives regarding upcoming updates

Financial Status – Eileen Cipolla

Ms. Cipolla stated that the department is closely monitoring revenue and expenses due to the continue effects of the COVID 19 pandemic. Ms. Cipolla stated that we are on target with the new projected budget.

Marketing/Programs – Kathy Fassman

Ms. Fassman reported that the department is offering some indoor programs, which includes volleyball clinics, lacrosse clinics and will be offering horseback riding and skiing as well. Checking on the New York State COVID guidelines as well as Connecticut.

The winter brochure will be mailed out at the end of the month.

Ms. Fassman mentioned that she wants to remind residents that we are open and holding classes. Lap swimming continues to be popular and we have opened Barlow Mt. pool for additional lap swim times.

We will be looking at February or March, if COVID allows, to do a community event, no current plans.

Some discussion ensued regarding the Rec Center’s COVID protocols, the Board of Education’s protocols, and the effects on our programs.

Assistant Director-Parks- Bob Schneider

No report at this time.

Sub-Committee Reports

Marketing, Promotion and Membership – Evie Bottali

Covered by Kathy Fassman’s report

Aquatics & Programs – Barbara Dobbin

Barbara Dobbin reported that Kathy Fassman and Joyce Dynia continue to do a good job and she will be reporting next month.

Budget & Policy – Phil Kearns

Mr. Kearns reported that he and the sub-committee are finishing work on the capital budget for presentation to the Commission in December. The sub-committee will begin working on the operating budget soon.

Buildings & Grounds – David Shofi

Mr. Shofi will meet with the sub-committee to finish work on the Athletic Fields Agreement.



Special Services, Community Outreach and Customer Experience – Kim Hulber

Kim Hulber mentioned that she would reach out to Bobby Schneider to review the list of ADA projects for the department. Ms. Hulber will review and work with the department to prioritize these projects.

Strategic Planning and Annual Goals – Gina Carey

Ms. Carey mentioned that she is working on the strategic plan assessment with the Director and expects a completed draft by next week. Mr. Kearns asked that the draft be forwarded to him as well.

Old Business

Covered above.

New Business

Covered above.

With no further business:

P. Nichols moved and D. Shofi seconded the motion to adjourn the Parks and Recreation Commission meeting at 8:45pm. Motion carried 7-0.

Minutes Approved

Evie Bottali, Secretary